



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Public Health**

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March 15, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **FOOD POLICY MOTION**

On November 17, 2009, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), County Counsel, and all affected County departments to respond to the following items: 1) conduct an inventory of all County venues that would be affected by phasing out sugar-sweetened company sponsorships, advertising, and sugar-sweetened beverages as well as a listing of all sugar-sweetened beverages provided at County venues; 2) ways to provide alternative beverage choices in County vending machines and through event sponsorships; and 3) determine if there are comparison charts that include the nutritional values of food and drinks so the public can make informative choices.

This memorandum provides our response to item three regarding the nutritional values of food and drinks. As outlined in the CEO's March 9, 2010 memorandum to your Board, the CEO will provide the response to items one and two in a separate report by April 17, 2010.

DPH conducted an assessment to determine the availability of comparison charts that include nutritional values of food and drinks for public consumption. This assessment indicated that there are no comparison charts that include the nutritional values of food and drinks for public consumption, although this information is generally provided as part of product packaging.

Although County contractors and venues are not currently required to provide nutritional value comparison charts, the County could require that calories and/or other nutritional information, such as the nutritional information already included on the product packaging, be posted on menus or display boards or on the exterior of vending machines that are located in County venues. This would allow the public/consumers to make informative choices; however this would likely involve significant resources to calculate the calories or other nutrients as well as require ongoing support and monitoring to ensure compliance and accuracy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:lm  
PH:912:003

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors